

REMARKS

Claims 15 to 19, 21, 22, 27 to 29 and 32 to 37 have been canceled. New Claims 38 to 54 have been inserted. New Claims 38 to 53 generally correspond to the prior claims, but not in the same order; the previous claims have been reassembled in one place in order to make them easier to work with. Claim 54 has no correspondence in the prior claims. Claim 54 is supported in this application on page 2, lines 20, 21, 23 and 29 to 32, page 4, lines 20, 21 and 29 to 32, page 8, lines 9, 14 to 16 and 27 to 30, and page 9, lines 22 to 25.

The undersigned attorney, on behalf of applicants, requests an interview with the Examiner and the Supervisory Examiner before the Examiner officially acts (e.g., issues an Office Action or the like) in this application. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney in due course at (202) 659-2000 to arrange a date for the interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 15 to 19, 21, 22, 27 to 29 and 32 to 37.

New Claims 38 to 54 have been inserted.

In the Specification:

The following priority benefit paragraph has been inserted on page 1 between the title and the first line:

Continuing prosecution application of U.S. Serial No. 09/505,713, filed on February 17, 2000, which has priority benefit of Swiss Patent Application 1114/99, filed on June 15, 1999.